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Selected Speeches and News Releases

Sept. 24 - Oct. 1, 1992

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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

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EXTRA VITAMIN E CAN HELP REDUCE EXERCISE-INDUCED MUSCLE DAMAGE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24—Before beginning an exercise program, it may be wise to boost the body's vitamin E reserves, U.S. Department of Agriculture findings suggest.

Extra vitamin E reduces the tissue-damaging oxygen radicals the body generates during exercise, said Mohsen Meydani, a nutritionist at the USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts in Boston. These radicals damage fats in muscle cell membranes, thus destroying the cells' integrity. Vitamin E also appears to reduce inflammation of damaged tissue, he said.

After unaccustomed exercise, Meydani explained, the muscles will let a person know they have suffered mechanical damage. But damage done to the cell membranes by oxygen radicals produced during exercise may also contribute to the soreness, he said.

A study of 21 men showed that "vitamin E provides protection against exercise-induced oxidative damage in both young and old," he said in a report in the latest issue of Agricultural Research magazine published by USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

Meydani measured by-products of fat oxidation in the urine of both age groups and in muscle tissue biopsied from the younger men's leg muscles. They did not assess soreness.

Nutritional immunologist Simin Nikbin Meydani found that vitamin E blunts the immune signals that trigger inflammation. "Supplemented subjects may have less muscle damage as a result," she said.

Earlier research at the Boston center suggested that prolonged or muscle-damaging exercise triggers the immune system to respond much the same as it does to infection, she said. It launches an attack against damaged muscle tissue.

She and colleagues think this response helps to break down damaged muscle cells so new tissue can be put in place of the cells. But the process may get out of control and break down healthy muscle tissue as well, she said.

In the study, one group of men took 800 I.U. of vitamin E daily for seven weeks prior to running downhill on a laboratory treadmill for 45 minutes. The other group got placebos before the muscle-damaging bout of exercise.

Half of the men in each group were in their twenties, while the other half ranged from 55 to 74 years of age. Mohsen Meydani wanted to compare the effects of vitamin E—an antioxidant—in young and older men because body levels of antioxidant enzymes reportedly diminish as people age.

He said the group that got the vitamin showed reduced oxidative damage. Both young and older men in this group excreted significantly less of a byproduct of fat oxidation by the twelfth day after exercise than the placebo group. And the data suggest that "the older men were better protected."

Simin Meydani found that vitamin E reduced two chemical messengers that work together in the inflammation process in the vitamin-E supplemented men.

"It appears that vitamin E is controlling the magnitude of the inflammatory response," she noted.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Mohsen Meydani, nutritionist, or Simin Nikbin Meydani, nutritional immunologist, Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts, USDA, ARS, Boston, Mass. 02111. Telephone: (617) 556-3126/3129.

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USDA ANNOUNCES CHANGES IN TOBACCO PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24—Changes to improve control and enforcement of the federal price support program for tobacco were announced today by Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation.

The changes include:

— letter of credit or bond requirements for dealers;

— accounting for damaged tobacco;

— enforcement of marketing quota liens and holding affiliated persons liable for tobacco penalties;

— suspension of dealer cards and penalty assessments;

— determining when a producer, by cash advance or other preauction arrangement, will be determined to have sold the tobacco preauction, so as to make it ineligible for price support and make improper any further use of the producer's marketing card for identifying such tobacco.

"Recent activities by warehousemen and dealers indicated a need for stronger regulatory provisions and other changes to increase the certainty of adherence to program rules and improve overall program operation," Bjerke said. "These changes are strongly supported by producers, producer associations and tobacco trade organizations."

Producers, warehousemen and dealers should contact their state or county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office for further information.

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATE FOR UPLAND COTTON

Washington, Sept. 24—Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality), the coarse count adjustment and the user marketing certificate payment rate in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Sept. 25, through midnight Thursday, Oct. 1.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the Northern Europe (NE) price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 82 percent of the 1992 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 4.94 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:

I.	Calculated AWP	42.70 cents per pound
	1992 Base Loan Rate	52.35 cents per pound
	AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate	82
II.	USNE Price	61.55 cents per pound
	NE Price	-56.61 cents per pound
	Maximum Adjustment Allowed	4.94 cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP will be made. This week's AWP and coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price		
NE Price		56.61
Adjustments:		
Average U.S. spot market location	12.05	
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	1.55	
Average U.S. location	0.31	
Sum of Adjustments		-13.91
Calculated AWP		42.70
Further AWP Adjustment		- 0
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE		42.70 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment	
NE Price	56.61
NE Coarse Count Price	-52.27
	4.34
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton	-3.95
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	0.39 cents/lb.

Because the AWP is below the 1990, 1991 and 1992 base quality loan rates of 50.27, 50.77 and 52.35 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Because the AWP is below the 1992-crop loan rate, cash loan deficiency payments will be paid to eligible producers who agree to forgo obtaining a price support loan with respect to the 1992 crop. The payment rate is equal to the difference between the loan rate and the AWP. Producers are allowed to obtain a loan deficiency payment on a bale-by-bale basis.

The USNE price has exceeded the NE price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1992 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the user marketing certificate payment rate is 3.69 cents per pound. This rate is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to September 30, 1993. Relevant data used in determining the user marketing certificate payment rate are summarized below:

Week	For the Friday through Thursday Period	USNE Current Price	NE Current Price	USNE Minus NE	Certificate Payment Rate 1/
1	Sept. 3, 1992	60.50	57.11	3.39	2.14
2	Sept. 10, 1992	60.20	56.45	3.75	2.50
3	Sept. 17, 1992	60.45	56.43	4.02	2.77
4	Sept. 24, 1992	61.55	56.61	4.94	3.69

1/ USNE price minus NE price minus 1.25 cents.

The next announcement of the AWP, coarse count adjustment and user marketing certificate payment rate will be made on Thursday, Oct. 1.

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MADIGAN NAMES 18 MEMBERS TO THE NATIONAL HONEY NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

LINCOLN, Ill., Sept. 24—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan has appointed 18 members to the National Honey Nominations Committee.

All appointees will serve a term beginning immediately and ending Dec. 31, 1994.

Reappointed are Gardner D. Hieronymus, Somerset, Ky.; James E. Metcalf, East Brookfield, Mass.; Edward R. Buchanan, Black Mountain, N.C.; Peter A. Gregoire, Horace, N.D.; Carl W. Van Wechel, Naches, Wash., and Richard R. Sackett, Sundance, Wyo.

Newly appointed are Edward P. Mason, Jonesboro, Ark.; Doris B. Payne, Wilmington, Del.; Charlotte W. Randall, Umatilla, Fla.; Steven J. Welch, Decatur, Ind.; Manley H. Bigalk, Cresco, Iowa; Jimmy B. Cagle, Long Beach, Miss.; Richard W. Sommer, Crawford, Neb.; Jacob C. Matthenius, Phillipsburg, N.J.; Ricky J. Cole, Peralta, N.M.; James Marr Ross, Minco, Okla.; Sandra J. Fisher, Stroudsburg, Pa., and William A. Mraz, Middlebury, Vt.

The National Honey Nominations Committee is authorized under the Honey Research, Promotion and Consumer Information Order. It is comprised of one representative from each of the top 20 honey-producing states and one representative from each additional state that desires membership on the committee. Members are nominated by state beekeepers' associations.

The committee nominates candidates for producer, importer, exporter and public members and alternates to serve on the National Honey Board.

The board administers a national program of research and promotion for honey. Honey producers and importers finance the board's programs through assessments on honey entering the marketplace. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service monitors the board and the committee.

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USDA INCREASES RATES OF 1992 ADVANCE DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS BY 10 PERCENT

LINCOLN, Ill., Sept. 24—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced that producers who applied for the 40 percent advance deficiency payment during the 1992 farm program signup Feb. 10—May 1 will now receive an additional 10 percent of the estimated payments.

No action is required by producers, who will be sent the additional payments before the end of September by the USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service county offices, Madigan said.

Madigan said his decision to increase the advance deficiency payment rate up to 50 percent is based on current estimates that 1992-crop deficiency payments for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, upland cotton and rice will be larger than originally projected.

Total additional advance deficiency payments will be about one-half billion dollars, according to USDA. The estimated payments are $110 million for wheat, $240 million for corn, $20 million for grain sorghum, $10 million for barley, $80 million for upland cotton, $55 million for rice and $5 million for oats.

The estimated deficiency rates and revised advance payment levels for the 1992 crops are:

	Estimated Deficiency Payment Rate (cents)	Advance Payment Rate (cents)
Wheat (bu)	65	32.5 (6.5)*
Corn (bu)	48	24.0 (4.8)*
Sorghum (bu)	46	23.0 (4.6)*
Barley (bu)	35	17.5 (3.5)*
Upland Cotton (lb)	15	7.5 (1.5)*
Rice (cwt)	351	175.5 (35.1)*
Oats (bu)	15	7.5 (1.5)*

*Reflects additional advance payment amount.

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U.S. DONATES NONFAT DRY MILK TO MEXICO

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture R. Randall Green today announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture will donate 400 metric tons of nonfortified nonfat dry milk to Project Concern International for aid programs in Mexico.

The $1.9 million donation will be sold to the Mexican private sector. The generated proceeds will be used to improve the diet of participants in programs sponsored by the Mexican Ministry of Health. This program is expected to reach as many as 160,000 families throughout Mexico.

The donation is made under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by USDA'S Commodity Credit Corporation to needy people overseas. The supply period is fiscal year 1992.

For more information, contact James F. Keefer, Foreign Agricultural Service, (202) 720-5263.

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USDA REQUESTS COMMENTS ON 1993 UPLAND COTTON PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25—The U.S Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation is issuing a proposed regulation requesting comments on the 1993 upland cotton Acreage Reduction Program.

Keith Bjerke, CCC executive vice president, said comments are requested on whether the upland cotton ARP percentage for 1993 should be 5, 10 or 15 percent. The following table shows the estimaed impacts of 3 options:

Item	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
ARP (%)	5	10	15
Participation (%)	88	86	84
Planted acres (million)	13.50	13.10	12.70
Production (million bales)	17.40	17.00	16.60
Domestic Use (million bales)	9.85	9.80	9.75
Exports (million bales)	6.50	6.40	6.30
Ending Stocks (million bales)	5.05	4.80	4.55
Carryover/Disappearance (%)	30.9	29.6	28.3
Def. Payments ($ million)	1,046	949	854

Submit comments by Oct. 14 to: Deputy Administrator, Policy Analysis, USDA/ASCS, P.O. Box 2415, Room 3090-S, Washington, D.C. 20013-2415.

All comments will be available for public inspection in Room 3756-S of USDA's South Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., during regular business hours. A regulatory impact analysis on the 1993 upland cotton program may be obtained from the Fibers and Rice Analysis Division, USDA/ASCS, Room 3754-S, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013-2415; telephone (202) 720-6734.

Further details will appear in the Sept. 29 Federal Register.

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USDA RELEASES COST OF FOOD AT HOME FOR JULY

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25—Here is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's monthly update of the weekly cost of food at home for July:

Cost of Food at Home for a Week in July 1992

	Food plans (in dollars)			
	Thrifty	Low-cost	Moderate-cost	Liberal
Families:				
Family of 2 (20-50 years)	49.10	61.70	76.00	94.20
Family of 2 (51 years and over)	46.40	59.20	72.80	87.10
Family of 4 with preschool children	71.60	89.10	108.60	133.10
Family of 4 with elementary schoolchildren	82.10	104.70	130.60	157.00
Individuals in four-person families:				
Children:				
1-2 years	13.00	15.80	18.40	22.20
3-5 years	14.00	17.20	21.10	25.30
6-8 years	17.10	22.70	28.40	33.10
9-11 years	20.40	25.90	33.10	38.30
Males:				
12-14 years	21.10	29.30	36.50	42.80
15-19 years	21.90	30.30	37.60	43.50
20-50 years	23.50	29.90	37.30	45.10
51 and over	21.30	28.40	34.90	41.80
Females:				
12-19 years	21.30	25.30	30.70	37.00
20-50 years	21.10	26.20	31.80	40.50
51 and over	20.90	25.40	31.30	37.40

USDA's Human Nutrition Information Service computes the cost of food at home for four food plans—thrifty, low-cost, moderate-cost, and liberal.

Sue Ann Ritchko, HNIS administrator, said the plans consist of foods that provide well-balanced meals and snacks for a week.

In computing the costs, USDA assumes all food is bought at the store and prepared at home. Costs do not include alcoholic beverages, pet food, soap, cigarettes, paper goods and other nonfood items bought at the store.

"USDA costs are only guides to spending," Ritchko said. "Families may spend more or less, depending on such factors as where they buy their food, how carefully they plan and buy, whether some food is produced at home, what foods the family likes, and how much food is prepared at home."

"Most families will find the moderate-cost or low-cost plan suitable," she said. "The thrifty plan, which USDA uses to set the coupon allotment in the food stamp program, is for families who have tighter budgets. Families with unlimited resources might use the liberal plan."

To use the chart to estimate your family's food costs:

— For members eating all meals at home—or carried from home—use the amounts shown in the chart.

— For memers eating some meals out, deduct 5 percent for each meal eaten away from home from the amount shown for the appropriate family member. Thus, for a person eating lunch out 5 days a week, subtract 25 percent, or one-fourth the cost shown.

— For guests, add 5 percent of the amount shown for the proper age group for each meal.

Costs in the second part of the chart pertain to individuals in four-person families. If your family has more or less than four, total the "individual" figures and make these adjustments (note: larger families tend to buy and use food more economically than smaller ones):

— For a one-person family, add 20 percent.

— For a two-person family, add 10 percent.

— For a three-person family, add 5 percent.

— For a five- or six-person family, subtract 5 percent.

— For a family of seven or more, subtract 10 percent.

Details of the four family food plans are available from the Nutrition Education Division, HNIS, USDA, Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

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USDA CHANGES OFFICIAL DISEASE STATUS OF CHILE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today declared Chile free from two highly infectious viral diseases, swine vesicular disease (SVD) and velogenic viscerotropic Newcastle disease (VVND).

SVD affects swine; and VVND, which is also called exotic Newcastle disease, affects all species of poultry and birds.

The change in status allows Chile to export poultry and fresh, chilled or frozen poultry products to the United States without being subject to VVND restrictions.

However, the importation of swine and fresh, chilled and frozen pork would continue to be prohibited because Chile is not free of hog cholera. Only cooked and dried pork from Chile is allowed entry.

"Chile requested this change in disease status because there has never been an outbreak of SVD in Chile, and there have been no cases of VVND in that country since 1975," said Billy G. Johnson, deputy administrator for veterinary services in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

APHIS officials visited Chile recently to examine disease diagnosis and surveillance procedures, vaccination practices and disease prevention and control regulations.

"We firmly believe Chilean agricultural health officials could control an outbreak of VVND or SVD," said Johnson.

APHIS officials do not expect a major increase in Chilean exports of live poultry or poultry products to result from the change in status.

This regulation change, which will become effective on Oct. 26 was published as a proposal in the May 29 Federal Register, and written comments were accepted for two months. The final regulations are published in today's Federal Register.

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USDA ANNOUNCES INCREASE FOR SWEETPOTATO WHITEFLY PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25—Funding to battle the sweetpotato whitefly will nearly double to $6.2 million in fiscal 1993, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official announced today.

"We are all too aware of the tremendous damage caused by the sweetpotato whitefly and the economic threat it poses," said Duane Acker, USDA's assistant secretary for science and education. "USDA has made control of this pest a high priority."

Funding will rise from last year's level of $3.5 million. The increased budget is broken down among three USDA agencies: Agricultural Research Service, $1,978,000; the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, $3,000,000; and the Cooperative State Research Service, $645,000, plus another $600,000 for research through competitive grant programs.

USDA agencies are coordinating their research and cooperating externally with universities, state agricultural experiment stations, private industry and state governments.

"Research is our best hope for beating the sweetpotato whitefly," said Acker, "so this is where we are concentrating our heaviest efforts. We are accelerating our research activities and coordinating sweetpotato whitefly research on a national level."

Whiteflies have caused extensive damage to food and fiber crops in Texas, Florida, California and Arizona. They attack some 500 crop and other plant species. Crops include cotton, alfalfa, carrots, peanuts, cantaloupe, citrus, eggplant, honeydew melon, broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, celery, peppers, squash, cauliflower, tomatoes, watermelon, cucumber, other fruits and vegetables, and poinsettias and other ornamentals.

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MEDIA ADVISORY: EFFECTS OF NAFTA ON AGRICUTURAL COMMODITIES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Economics today issued its "Preliminary Analysis of the Effects of the

North American Free Trade Agreement on U.S. Agricultural Commodities," a report discussing how NAFTA is likely to influence production, trade, prices and revenues in U.S. agriculture.

The report is based on ongoing analysis by USDA economists. Additional commodity studies and refinements to the study will be issued in the future. Copies of the report are available from USDA, Office of Public Affairs, Room 213-A, Washington, D.C. 20250; telephone (202) 720-4623.

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STATES TO RECEIVE S236 MILLION IN INTERIM NATIONAL FOREST PAYMENTS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28—Forty-one states and Puerto Rico will share interim payments totaling $236 million as their portion of national forest receipts collected in fiscal 1992, F. Dale Robertson, chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, announced today.

"We estimate these states will eventually receive over $314 million as their total payments from national forest receipts for the year," Robertson said.

The interim payment represents 75 percent of the estimated amount each state will receive as its share of funds collected during the year from the sale and use of a variety of national forest products and services. USDA pays any additional funds it owes the states in December, after determining the actual receipts for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30.

By law, the Forest Service pays 25 percent of the revenues it collects from timber sales, grazing, recreation, minerals, and land uses to states in which national forest lands are located. The funds are used for schools and roads. Last year, the states received total payments of more than $346 million.

The interim payments do not reflect revenues collected from the national grasslands. National grassland receipts are calculated on a calendar year basis, and these funds are shared with the states in the spring.

The largest interim payments will go to Oregon, $105 million; California, $41 million; Washington, $26 million; and Idaho, $14 million.

Interim payments and the estimated 1992 amounts for each state are listed in the following table.

INTERIM, ESTIMATED TOTAL STATE PAYMENTS FOR NATIONAL FOREST RECEIPTS—FY 1992

	Interim Payment	Estimated Total Payment
ALABAMA	1,464,318.57	1,952,424.76
ALASKA	1,029,544.70	1,372,726.27
ARIZONA	4,352,380.25	5,803,173.67
ARKANSAS	2,347,278.35	3,129,704.46
CALIFORNIA*/	40,879,317.81	54,505,757.08
COLORADO	3,221,067.39	4,294,756.52
FLORIDA	1,127,812.52	1,503,750.03
GEORGIA	886,875.01	1,182,500.01
IDAHO	14,412,184.16	19,216,245.55
ILLINOIS	30,768.75	41,025.00
INDIANA	8,538.33	11,384.44
KENTUCKY	477,250.97	636,334.62
LOUISIANA	2,196,289.88	2,928,386.51
MAINE	22,758.56	30,344.75
MICHIGAN	1,301,043.77	1,734,725.03
MINNESOTA	1,723,310.85	2,297,747.80
MISSISSIPPI	4,281,951.97	5,709,269.29
MISSOURI	947,812.54	1,263,750.05
MONTANA	7,745,086.86	10,326,782.48
NEBRASKA	34,059.38	45,412.50
NEVADA	283,567.19	378,089.59
NEW HAMPSHIRE	333,289.92	444,386.56
NEW MEXICO	1,433,962.79	1,911,950.39
NEW YORK	2,756.42	3,675.22
NORTH CAROLINA	495,910.74	661,214.32
NORTH DAKOTA	65.59	87.45
OHIO	114,908.26	153,211.01
OKLAHOMA	260,137.43	346,849.90
OREGON*/	104,749,379.02	139,665,838.69
PENNSYLVANIA	3,155,887.05	4,207,849.40
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,417,877.54	1,890,503.38
SOUTH DAKOTA	2,065,598.83	2,754,131.77
TENNESSEE	316,058.80	421,411.73
TEXAS	2,248,105.37	2,997,473.82
UTAH	1,009,500.03	1,346,000.04

VERMONT	116,863.02	155,817.36
VIRGINIA	344,917.38	459,889.84
WASHINGTON*/	26,368,331.63	35,157,775.50
WEST VIRGINIA	720,680.02	960,906.69
WISCONSIN	629,955.42	839,940.56
WYOMING	1,540,526.64	2,054,035.52
PUERTO RICO	12,187.51	16,250.01
GRAND TOTAL	$236,110,117.22	$314,813,489.57

*/Interim payments to California, Oregon and Washington were computed under a provision of the Interior and Related Agencies 1991 Appropriations Act. Section 316 of that Act provides for payments to states for fiscal year 1991 of not less than 90% of the three-year average payments for fiscal years 1988-90 for those national forests affected by decisions on the northern spotted owl. Interim payments to these states would be lower if based solely on actual receipts.

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BROKEN-RICE CONTENT OF P.L. 480 SHIPMENTS TO REMAIN LIMITED TO 20 PERCENT

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will continue its current policy of limiting the content of broken-kernel rice to 20 percent in Public Law 480 food-aid rice shipments, said Keith Bjerke, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

On July 16, USDA invited public comment on whether this limitation should be changed thereby permitting recipient countries to obtain higher broken-content rice. Of the 204 comments received from the U.S rice industry, domestic users of broken rice and members of Congress, 168 opposed changing the 20-percent limitation.

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Keith Bjerke today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

—long grain whole kernels, 9.04 cents per pound;
—medium grain whole kernels, 8.16 cents per pound;
—short grain whole kernels, 8.14 cents per pound;
—broken kernels, 4.52 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, loan deficiency payment rates and gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price level are:

—for long grain, $1.06 per hundredweight;
—for medium grain, $1.00 per hundredweight;
—for short grain, $1.00 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 12:00:01 A.M. EDT until 12:00:00 a.m. EDT Tuesday, Oct. 6. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Oct. 6 at 7 a.m. EDT. The price announced at that time will be effective from 12:00:01 a.m. EDT Tuesday, Oct. 6.

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PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR RUSSIA

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 130,000 metric tons of soft red winter wheat for delivery to Russia during the 1992-93 marketing year.

The marketing year for wheat began June 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 p.m. Eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

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NEW PIMA COTTON VARIETY FROM USDA YIELDS STRONGER YARN FOR TEXTILES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29—Pima S-7, a new cotton developed by U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists, could add income to growers' pocketbooks and improve the quality of fiber in fine-spun fabrics for consumers.

Pima S-7 produces stronger fiber than its predecessor Pima varieties, which are used to make high-quality sheets, towels, sewing thread and highfashion clothing, said Richard G. Percy, a geneticist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Maricopa, Ariz.

Nearly all U.S. cotton is upland (Gossypium hirsutum). Pima cotton (G. barbadense) currently is grown on about 260,000 acres of the approximately 13 million acres of U.S. cotton.

Percy said growers have planted more acres of Pima cotton in recent years because "the increased yield potential and the higher price paid for Pima cotton. Due to its greater fiber length and strength, Pima can command as much as 50 cents per pound more than upland cotton. The increased price reflects the quality requirements of finer yarns and fabrics made from Pima cotton."

Percy said Pima S-7 eventually will supercede Pima S-6, the current commercial variety, in many areas of the "Pima belt" that extends from California's San Joaquin Valley to south-central Texas.

Pima S-7 is an improvement over S-6 at lower elevations. At elevations below 2,500 feet, where 75 percent of Pima cotton is grown, Pima S-7 yielded 10 percent more fiber than S-6. At higher elevations, fiber yield was about the same for both varieties.

"S-7 matures earlier," said Edgar L. Turcotte, a retired ARS geneticist. "This may reduce irrigation and pesticide applications, as well as allow earlier picking in areas that experience early fall rain." He said S-7 also has greater heat tolerance, important because high temperatures can cut yields.

S-7 was bred through 12 years of research led by Turcotte, who collaborates with Percy at the agency's Western Cotton Research Laboratory, headquartered in Phoenix. They compared S-7 and S-6 in field tests in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

The ARS scientists developed the two varieties in cooperation with the Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station. Turcotte and Percy conduct field studies at the University of Arizona's Agricultural Center in Maricopa.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact plant geneticists Richard G. Percy and Edgar L. Turcotte at Maricopa Agricultural Center, Maricopa, Ariz. 85239. Telephone (602) 379-4221. They are part of the Western Cotton Research Laboratory, USDA, ARS, Phoenix, Ariz. 85040.

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USDA ANNOUNCES 1993 FEED GRAINS PROGRAM PROVISIONS

MATTOON, Ill., Sept. 29—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced a 1993 acreage reduction program (ARP) of 10 percent for corn, 5 percent for grain sorghum and zero percent for barley and oats.

The 1993-crop corn set aside is up from the 5-percent 1992 level. Corn stocks going into the 1993/94 marketing year are expected to be about 745 million bushels higher than the previous year's levels because of the prospects for a large 1992 crop, Madigan said.

The secretary used his discretionary authority under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) trigger provisions to waive the legal minimum 7.5 percent set aside levels for grain sorghum and barley. The action was necessary to ensure supplies are adequate to maintain the U.S. competitive position in the world markets, he said. The 1992 set aside levels for sorghum and barley are 5 percent.

The 1993 set aside for oats is unchanged and is set by law.

The 1990 farm bill requires that the 1993 feed grain set aside be announced by Sept. 30. Final changes must be made no later than Nov. 15.

Madigan also announced that established target prices and the price support and purchase rates for the 1993 crops of corn, sorghum, barley and oats and the loan level for rye are unchanged from 1992. The 1993 target prices and price support rates are:

Commodity	Target Price	Price Support Rate
	(dollars per bushel)	
Corn	2.75	1.72
Grain sorghum	2.61	1.63
Barley	2.36	1.40
Oats	1.45	0.88
Rye	N.A.	1.46

Other 1993-crop program provisions will be announced later

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50-PERCENT ADVANCE DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS SET FOR 1993 FARM PROGRAMS

MATTOON, Ill., Sept. 29—Producers who participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 1993 farm programs for feed grains, wheat, rice and upland cotton may request 50 percent of their estimated deficiency payments during signup, Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan announced today.

Dates for the 1993 program signup period and other provisions of the above farm programs will be announced later, Madigan said.

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BOOK ADVOCATES "TEAM" APPROACH TO BIOLOGICAL PEST CONTROL

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30—A new book by retired U.S. Department of Agriculture insect authority Edward F. Knipling calls for control of crop pests through imitation of Nature's methods, on a widespread, coordinated and carefully timed basis.

In the book, "Principles of Insect Parasitism Analyzed from New Perspectives," Knipling urged that parasites of crop pests be released in high numbers at carefully pinpointed times when pest numbers are lower and more easily controlled.

He also stressed that parasite releases be spread over a large enough area to reduce the chances of the biological agents and their progeny migrating out of the release area.

"If this sort of parasite augmentation technique can be fully perfected, it offers the potential for regulating populations of many major insect pests at costs that might be less than one-tenth the cost of losses the pests cause under current management practices," he said.

"The potential benefits to U.S. agriculture alone could amount to billions of dollars each year, plus there would be benefits to the environment through reduced chemical use," said Knipling, who retired from USDA's Agricultural Research Service in 1973 as a world-recognized expert on biological control

of insect pests. He continues to come to his office at the agency's Beltsville, Md., research center.

Knipling noted that thousands of parasitic and predator insects have evolved in nature to help hold in check pests that damage agricultural crops.

However, he added, nature contrives to hold the ratio of parasites and predators to pests at such levels that the survival of each is ensured—which can be bad news for farmers who are trying to beat back crop pests.

"Individually and collectively, these beneficial insects on their own are unable to reduce the populations of many insect pests below levels that are economically damaging to agricultural interests," Knipling wrote in the 338-page book published by ARS, subtitled "Practical Implications for Regulating Insect Populations by Biological Means".

The release of greater numbers of parasites into pest habitats typically has had limited effectiveness for several reasons, according to Knipling.

First, he said, the parasites are often released after pest populations have boomed, making control more difficult. Also, the parasites usually are released in a fairly small area and can easily migrate.

Knipling's new book was published as Agriculture Handbook Number 693, Stock Number 001-000-04582-2. The book can be purchased for $9.50 from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. Orders also can be faxed to (202) 512-2250. The order processing code is *6237.

Knipling is perhaps best known for his work on the sterile insect technique for the eradication of the screwworm, the only insect known to consume the living flesh of warm-blooded animals.

In the 1930s, he and fellow ARS scientist Raymond C. Bushland theorized that this destructive livestock pest could be controlled if male screwworm flies were sterilized and released to mate with wild female screwworm flies, resulting in declines in numbers of offspring.

This technique subsequently led to the eradication of the screwworm from the United States and Mexico. Elimination of the pest is estimated to have saved the U.S. livestock industry billions of dollars. The technique also has been used effectively against the Mediterranean fruit fly and has shown promise for other pests including gypsy moths, boll weevils and tsetse flies.

Knipling and Bushland recently were awarded the World Food Prize for their work on the sterile male technique of insect control. Knipling was named to the ARS Hall of Fame in 1986, and Bushland was inducted into the Hall of Fame this year.

Knipling's previous publications include "The Basic Principles of Insect Population Suppression and Management," Agriculture Handbook 512, published by USDA in 1979.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Edward F. Knipling, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Beltsville, Md. 20705. Telephone: (301) 504-5930.

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APHIS TAKES A LEAD ROLE IN NEW WILDLIFE INSTITUTE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has helped develop the concept for a new wildlife damage management education program at Utah State University in Logan, and is providing key funding for the program.

APHIS' Animal Damage Control Program has planned to provide $35,000 to help fund the Berryman Institute at Utah State, named in honor of Jack H. Berryman for his long-time involvement and distinguished career with the wildlife damage management profession.

"The Berryman Institute will help enhance relations between humans and wild animals," said Bobby Acord, deputy administrator for Animal Damage Control. "The institute will help meet the challenge of making wildlife more valuable to society, agricultural producers and homeowners by reducing damage caused by wildlife."

The institute, which is beginning operations this fall, will provide educational opportunities to present and future wildlife damage management professionals, develop new techniques to reduce wildlife damage problems, and reward professional excellence.

"The Berryman Institute will generate and disseminate knowledge to solve wildlife damage problems," said Acord, "as well as facilitate lines of professional communication."

The Institute will be an integral part of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Utah State. For more information contact The Berryman Institute, Utah State University, Logan, Utah 84322; telephone 301-750-2459; or Robin Porter, USDA, APHIS, LPA-PI, 613 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782; telephone 301-436-6573.

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USDA TO BUY DRY MILK FOR U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

COLUMBIA, Mo., Sept. 30—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced that the Commodity Credit Corporation, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, will offer to purchase dry whole milk and nonfat dry milk for the U.S. Agency for International Development during October.

The purchases are to meet program delivery requirements in November and December and will be used in AID's Vulnerable Groups Assistance Program under the Democratic and Economic Initiatives Project for the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union.

About $14 million has been transferred by AID to CCC to make this purchase.

Details on how to submit offers to sell dry whole milk and nonfat dry milk are available from USDA's Kansas City Commodity Office, telephone (816) 926-2503.

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USDA ANNOUNCES CROP INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR 1992 DISASTER PAYMENTS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30—Producers applying for U.S. Department of Agriculture disaster payments for 1992 crop losses must purchase crop insurance on the same crop for 1993 if this year's loss was more than 65 percent, as required by the 1990 farm bill.

Producers cannot avoid insurance simply by delaying application for disaster payments. In addition, they must certify they understand that failure to pay the required crop insurance premiums will mean forfeiture of disaster payments.

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation is extending closing dates for insurance sales on some commodities, said James Cason, FCIC administrator.

Cason announced today that sales' closing dates for wheat, barley, oats, rye, nursery crops, potatoes and sugarcane have been extended to Oct. 31, to

accomodate producers. Some areas of the country will have later sales' closing dates.

To make producers aware of these dates, FCIC has provided all Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service county offices with sales closing dates for all insured commodities in the area.

Under the law there are some exceptions to the requirement that producers obtain crop insurance. If they acquire insurance because they thought they had to and learn later that it was not required, farmers may request release from the policy.

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